



State of Wisconsin
Department of Public Instruction
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DPI 2008-51

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DPI to hold hearings on rules for awarding STEM grants

Grants address need for more students to take science, technology, engineering, and mathematics courses

MADISON—The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction will conduct two hearings from 3 to 5 p.m., Tuesday, March 18, and from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Friday, March 21, in Room 041 of the GEF 3 Building, 125 South Webster Street, Madison, to take public testimony on emergency and proposed permanent rules related to grants for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) programs.

The proposed rules describe application criteria and procedures for awarding \$61,500 annually in STEM grants. The new grant program was established as part of the 2007-09 budget to encourage more students to consider careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, which will grow Wisconsin's knowledge-based economy. The grants will help districts develop innovative instructional programs in STEM subjects, support students who are typically under-represented in these subjects, and increase student academic achievement in STEM classes. Applications for STEM grants for the 2007-08 school year were due Feb. 15 for projects to be completed by June 30. In future years, the rules establish May 1 as the grant application deadline, similar to application timelines for other department grant programs.

The hearing site is fully accessible to people with disabilities. A copy of the administrative rules and fiscal estimate is available at <http://dpi.wi.gov/pb/rulespg.html>. Copies of these materials also are available by sending an e-mail request to lori.slauson@dpi.wi.gov or by writing to Lori Slauson, administrative rules and federal grants coordinator, DPI, 125 South Webster Street, P.O. Box 7841, Madison, WI 53707-7841.

Written comments on the proposed rules may be submitted via U.S. mail or e-mail to the addresses above no later than March 27. Following the hearing, the department will consider all testimony from the hearing and submitted in writing in deciding changes to the proposed rules before submitting them to the Legislature.

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NOTE: This news release is available electronically at http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2008_51.pdf.

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